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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/531,571	03/20/2000	Bill E. Williams	BS99-191	6194

7590 04/28/2005

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Marietta, GA 30007-1355

EXAMINER
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PATEL, JAGDISH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3624

DATE MAILED: 04/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/531,571

**Applicant(s)**

WILLIAMS ET AL.

**Examiner**

JAGDISH PATEL

**Art Unit**

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-10 and 33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-10 and 33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This communication is in response to amendment filed 3/20/2004.

***Response to Amendment***

2. The amendment has been recorded. Claim 1 has been amended per request. Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 33 are currently pending.
3. The examiner has further reviewed the applied prior art of Jost. As per agreement reached in telephone interview dated 3/10/05 with att. Jeramine Keys (Reg. No 42,724), the rejection of the pending claims over Jost reference is withdrawn.
4. The pending claims have been rejected over newly found prior art as explained in the following section. Accordingly, this office action is a final rejection based upon withdrawal of the prior final action.

***Statute Cited in Prior Action***

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahlberg et al. (US Pat. 6,587,836).

Per claim 1, Ahlberg teaches a method of for notifying an electronic billing vendor of customer status changes that involve account numbers stored for customers (refer to col. 3 L 14-30, managing accounts, desired changes in their accounts, etc.) comprising:

receiving service orders from the customers specifying one or more activities, wherein one or more of the service orders requires an account number change and wherein a billing computer

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system of the electronic billing vendor utilizes the account number being changed;

(Refer to see also col. 4 L 14-23, adding a new order entry, modifying an existing order entry performed for a customer who manages their telecommunication accounts)

creating electronic service order entries within a service order computer system of a service provider based on the received service orders, wherein information is included within each electronic service order entry to indicate that the account number has changed for the customer when the service order results in the account number change;

(refer to "order entry" as referred to col. 4 L 14-23)

flagging the electronic service order entries (that correspond to electronic billing customers);

(refer to Fig. 20 and relevant description at col. 16 L "modify" flag)

storing the electronic service order entries in an update computer file;

(see "common database" and details at col. 12 L 46-54 )

searching the update computer file for flagged entries that include the information that indicates an account number change;

(refer to col. 12 L 55-62, specifically, report management related data)

creating a new file that includes the flagged electronic service order entries that include the information that

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indicates an account number change that have been found by the search;

(refer to col. 12 L 55-62, specifically, report management related data)

reformatting the flagged electronic service order entries of the new file that include the information that indicate: account number changes to a record format compatible with the billing computer system of the electronic billing vendor; and

(COL. 10 L 7-11, "any data ..translated back to client format and returned over the internet to the client workstation 10..")

transmitting the reformatted flagged entries of the new file that include the information that indicates account number changes over a computer network to the billing computer system of the electronic billing vendor.

(COL. 10 L 7-11, "any data ..translated back to client format and returned over the internet to the client workstation 10..")

Ahlberg, fails to suggest that the data management method for notifying an electronic billing vendor of customer status changes is directed specifically to electronic billing customers (flagging electronic service orders that corresponds to electronic billing customers and subsequently creating a new file that includes the flagged entries). However, the process steps of receiving, creating, flagging, searching, creating,

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reformatting and transmitting are applied towards communicating a reformatted flagged entries included in a file which include the information that indicates account number changes as intended use of the process. As explained above, Ahlberg is capable of achieving this intended use, it meets the claim. A recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. In a claim drawn to a process of making, the intended use must result in a manipulative difference as compared to the prior art. See *In re Casey*, 370 F.2d 576, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 312 F.2d 937, 939, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963).

Claim 2: creating service order entry for each activity of each service order (see col. 4 L 14-23, adding a new entry).

Claim 3: placing the electronic service order entries in the update computer file at an interval (see col. 24 L 39-46 At a set time each day, for example, 6:00 A.M., the StarOE, the reconciliation process more specifically, picks up the files via FTP and either replaces the previous day's hierarchy file with the new information (full file) or updates the previous day's file using the files having the updated data only.)

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Regarding claim 4, Official Notice is taken that searching computer files with a queries having a multiple search criteria and having an order of search based on multiple attributes in a prioritized order (first searching for attribute A, then within the detected entries having attribute A, then searching for attribute A1 within the detected entries etc.) is old and well known.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to apply this well known search routine to carry out search for flagged entries and then account number changes among the flagged entries as a matter of chosen query process because one would efficiently locate the desired entries (e.g. entries having account number changes).

Claim 5 is also similarly analyzed.

Claim 9: Official Notice is taken that transmitting data over a network using a file transfer protocol (FTP) old and well known.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to transmit the flagged electronic service order entries that indicate account number changes to the computer system of the billing vendor through a

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computer network using a file transfer protocol (FTP) as a matter of designer's choice.

Claim 10: see claim 1 analysis.

Claim 33: receiving the new file with the reformatted electronic service entries..(see analysis of "transmitting" step of claim 1);

Modifying customer records of the billing computer system according to the electronic service entries ..(see col. 4 L 15-24, "modifying an existing order entries);

Generating electronic bills for the customers based on the modified account numbers (see col. 3 L 58-60, directing billing information to different billing streams as desired by the customer (i.e. biller))

### **Conclusion**

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS



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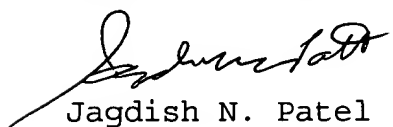
of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAGDISH PATEL whose telephone number is (703)308-7837. The examiner can normally be reached on 800AM-600PM M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (703)308-1065. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jagdish N. Patel

(Primary Examiner, AU 3624)

4/25/05